



Life Course

Negative Outcome

Brief Name

Alcohol Usage Among Youth

Indicator

Percent of youth who are current drinkers.

Description

This represents the percent of high school youth who have imbibed alcohol within the last 30 days. Alcohol is specified as beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey, not for religious purposes. Youth are asked, "*During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?*"

WI	US	Best	Worst
32.7%	34.9%	11%	39.3%
		UT	NJ

Year

2013

Numerator

Number of youth having one or more drink on at least one day in the past 30 days

Denominator

High school youth (all grades)

Importance

Underage drinking poses significant health risks to youth, including increased likelihood of physical or sexual assault, and future alcohol dependence or drug use (Anderson, 2009). In addition to engaging in risky behaviors while under the influence of alcohol, youth who engage in heavy drinking may experience stunted neurodevelopment, which can decrease overall brain function (Brown, 2000). Youth with a high frequency of drinking alcohol are more likely to have gotten drunk and to binge drink (having five or more drinks in a row), compounding potential problems (Windle, 2003).

Limitations

Self-report of a sensitive topic such as illicit alcohol use is likely under reported.

The following states are not included in the comparison: MN, AZ, CA, CO, IN, IA, MO, PA.

Source

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin 2013. Data from the CDC YRBS Youth Online, accessed at <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>. Anderson, Peter, et al. "Impact of alcohol advertising and media exposure on adolescent alcohol use: a systematic review of longitudinal studies." *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 44.3 (2009): 229-243. Brown, Sandra A., et al. "Neurocognitive functioning of adolescents: Effects of protracted alcohol use." *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 24.2 (2000): 164-171. Windle, Michael. "Alcohol use among adolescents and young adults." *Population*, 45.5.9 (2003): 19-15.